



Aruba: The island of Aloes



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MONDAY: ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	WEDNESDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	SATURDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Sympathy for the bedeviled: the likable conspiracy theorist of ‘Bugonia’

(AFP) - Beverly Hills, United States

If there's one thing the 21st century has in spades, it's conspiracy theorists -- many of them angry, unhinged people hacking at their keyboards about grievances real and imagined.

But when screenwriter Will Tracy sat down to pen his Oscar-nominated script for “Bugonia,” he wanted to create a protagonist with a little more nuance.

“The main thing I wanted was the sense of empathy you felt for Teddy,” he said of the lead character, played with characteristic bravura by the always-watchable Jesse Plemons. “It’s quite easy to make a version of that story where



US screenwriter Will Tracy whose movie “Bugonia” is nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay poses during a photo session ahead of the 98th Oscars Nominees Luncheon at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California on February 10, 2026.

he’s a sort of toxic incel male conspiracy theorist nut who you don’t really sympathize with,” he told AFP.

“I wanted to do my best to make him be a guy who’s... been properly abused by the system.” Aliens

“Bugonia” tells the story of Teddy Gatz (Plemons), who -- accompanied by his slow-witted cousin Don -- kidnaps big pharma CEO Michelle Fuller (best actress nominee Emma Stone) because he believes... she is an alien.

In Teddy’s mind, Michelle has assumed a powerful position on Earth, which her alien race is exploiting for its own ends.

Over several disturbing but darkly comic scenes, they torture her as she tries to convince them she is human and they are making a big mistake.

But all is not what it seems, and both Stone’s character and the organization she works for have questions to answer, including over the death of Teddy’s beloved mother.

Director Yorgos Lanthimos skillfully brings viewers along for the ride, stretching and then rewarding their sympathy with Teddy, even as his behavior becomes ever more outlandish.

That is a deliberate choice, says Tracy, because Teddy is not -- or at least not just -- a lunatic.

“He’s got a point, and actually, he ends up being right about quite a bit,” said Tracy.

“I think he has some legitimate grievances.”

‘Trust’

The script, which is competing in the best adapted screenplay category, is a reworking of “Save the Green Planet,” a

2003 film by Korean writer Jang Joon-hwan.

Tracy said he wanted to respect the source material, but without feeling constricted by it.

“I think I tried not to be too faithful. I didn’t want the film sort of in my head, kind of hanging over me,” he said.

“So I tried to take a pretty free hand with it and kind of plow my own furrow.”

That approach produced a screenplay that attracted the attention of six-time Oscar nominee Lanthimos, whose 2023 fantasy “Poor Things” scooped four statuettes, including best actress for Stone.

Tracy said he was thrilled that the Greek director took up the project, which he wrote about 18 months before Lanthimos was attached.

“When he came on board... he didn’t really monkey with the script too much,” Tracy said.

“I think what I discovered is that I sort of inadvertently wrote a very Lanthimosian screenplay, because I think our sensibilities were just really aligned.”

That includes the need to maintain the ambiguities and the nuance of the film as Tracy wrote it.

“He, I think, wanted to preserve the mystery and also make the kind of film that when you leave the theater, you can go to dinner with the people you saw the movie with, and people could have wildly different opinions about what the ending means,” Tracy explained.

Jerskin Fendrix, who is nominated for best original score for the film, said Lanthimos produces extraordinary work because of the trust he places in his collaborators. “He gives you all the information he thinks you need. It might be very little information -- in my case, it was three words -- and then he lets you run with it,” he told AFP.

The Oscars will be handed out in Hollywood on March 15. □

Paseo Herencia

WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS 8PM

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

WATERSHOWS EVERY NIGHT AT

7:30	8:30	9:30
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'One Battle After Another' wins top producer award before Oscars

(AFP) - Los Angeles, United States

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" was named best picture by Hollywood producers on Saturday, continuing its awards season streak before the Oscars.

The Producers Guild Awards (PGA) win cements the film, about the rise of extremism in the United States, as a frontrunner for the top prizes at the Academy Awards, which cap off the Hollywood awards season.

Anderson's film, which depicts the hunt for former far-left revolutionaries by a white supremacist, seems destined for the best picture Oscar, having already secured numerous awards. Since early January, it has won top prizes from American film critics and Hol-



Paul Thomas Anderson and Sara Murphy accept the Darryl F. Zanuck Award for Outstanding Producer of Theatrical Motion Pictures for "One Battle After Another" onstage during the 2026 Producers Guild Awards at Faimont Century Plaza on February 28, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

lywood directors, and received the Golden Globe for best comedy.

"This is a tremendous honor, thank you very much," Anderson said in his acceptance speech.

The director then addressed executives at War-

ner Bros., the prestigious studio that distributed the film and is about to be acquired by Paramount Skydance.

"Long may you wave, whatever the future holds. It is one battle after another," he said.

The Producers Guild Awards are presented annually by the trade union, which has more than 8,000 members. They are considered a reliable indicator for the Oscars, with winners going on to seal best picture at the Oscars many times.

13 Oscar nominations

"One Battle After Another" boasts an all-star cast.

Leonardo DiCaprio plays an explosives expert involved in a far-left movement where he falls in love with a revolutionary firebrand played by Teyana Taylor.

But years later, a white supremacist soldier (Sean Penn) who previously hunted them resurfaces, forcing the former bomb expert to return to action to rescue his child.

In his quest, he crosses paths with a Zen-like karate

master (Benicio Del Toro), who is delighted to help the former revolutionary.

Adapted from Thomas Pynchon's novel "Vineyard," the film depicts an irreconcilable America, torn apart by the political legacies of the Ku Klux Klan and the Black Power movement, where everything is resolved through violence.

Acclaimed for its ability to capture the contemporary fractures in the United States, the film received 13 Oscar nominations, including one for each of its lead actors.

But that was fewer than its main Oscars rival, Ryan Coogler's "Sinners," which received 16 nominations.

The winners will be announced on March 15 at the 98th Academy Awards ceremony in Hollywood. □

Shakespeare would have shunned streaming, 'Hamnet' team says

(AFP) - Beverly Hills, United States

If William Shakespeare were working today in film, he would want his movies shown in theaters instead of going straight to streaming, the Oscar-nominated producers of "Hamnet" say.

With Hollywood's traditional business model reeled by the explosive growth of companies like Netflix in recent years, filmmakers are increasingly pushing back, urging studios to preserve the moviegoing experience.

And "Hamnet" -- the story of Agnes and William Shakespeare's grief over the death of their son in plague-ravaged 16th century England -- is one of those films that demands communal viewing, its producers say.

"It shows the universality of storytelling... and how people are so eager to be in a shared experience that enables them to really feel part of a story," producer Nic Gonda told AFP.

"What's been so exciting over the last month or so is to see how what started as a release in America has now rippled around the



Chinese filmmaker Chloe Zhao, Irish actress Jessie Buckley and Irish actor Paul Mescal attend the Palm Springs International Film Festival Awards at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs on January 3, 2026.

world."

Fellow producer Pippa Harris, one of five people nominated in the best picture category for Chloe Zhao's elegiac tale of love and loss, lamented modern viewing habits.

"If you say to people, there's a film in the cinema this week and we can see it at home next week, then people just can't be bothered," Harris told AFP.

"They think, 'Oh, well, I'll wait at home and watch it on the streaming service.'"

Producer Liza Marshall

said that idea of streaming being good enough is contrary to what the Bard stood for.

"It's totally different to see something on a big screen with a group of strangers. It's a really amazing experience," Marshall told AFP.

"It's more important than ever, as we all become so separate and just looking at our individual screens, that we all need to come together, like why Shakespeare wrote his plays -- for people to be in a room together and experience it."

Grief

"Hamnet," adapted from Maggie O'Farrell's novel, puts the spotlight on Agnes (Jessie Buckley), who must care for the couple's remaining children even as William (Paul Mescal) toils far away on London's stages.

The film blends period accuracy, heavy symbolism and magical realism, with Oscar-nominated Zhao coaxing a heart-wrenching performance from Buckley, a frontrunner for the best actress award.

"Hamnet," whose producers also include Steven Spielberg and Sam Mendes, has recouped its \$30 million budget three times over, a figure that looks set to continue rising. Harris of course acknowledges that at a certain point, movies leave the theater and hit the streaming services.

But, she insists, preserving a decent theatrical window of 45 to 90 days is a much better way to build value.

"I think the way you create excitement for streaming services is to create excitement in cinemas first," Harris said.

"And then people want to see the film later on the streaming service."

"If you just put it straight out onto the television, there's no buzz. There's no sort of cultural moment around the film."

"Hamnet" is vying for the best picture Oscar at the March 15 ceremony in Hollywood against "Bugonia," "Fl," "Frankenstein," "Marty Supreme," "One Battle After Another," "The Secret Agent," "Sentimental Value," "Sinners" and "Train Dreams." □

Flights of fancy at Bottega Veneta, atmospheric mood at Armani in Milan

(AFP) - Milan, Italy
Grey and brutalist, showy and shimmering -- the stark contrasts of the Italian fashion capital of Milan fuelled the creative mind of Bottega Veneta's Louise Trotter in her second collection for the brand.

The city's harsh aspects found expression in the armour-like coats that Trotter sent down the runway Saturday night at Milan Fashion Week, while its theatrical side burst forth from delightfully tactile creations made from recycled fibreglass that swayed and shimmered as models made their way down the runway.

Milan's most famous brand, Giorgio Armani, also channelled a Milanese mood on Sunday, but more contemplative in a collection that drew on Japanese influences and hues of blue-grey and claret.

Trotter told journalists after her show that the Fall/Winter collection for the brand known for its "intreccio" technique of woven leather was inspired by "what



A model presents a creation for Giorgio Armani for the Women's Ready to Wear Fall/Winter 2026-2027 collection fashion show as part of the Milano Fashion Week, in Milan, northern Italy, on March 1, 2026.

Milanese style meant to me and Bottega Veneta from my viewpoint".

The brutalism of the city, whether in its architecture or its notoriously grey weather, juxtaposes with a more hidden "sensuality and seduction", she said.

That translated to the coats, long jackets and coat dresses with bold, exaggerated shoulders -- "like armour", Trotter said -- some of them with an accompanying brown leather

belt that dangled, sword-like, from the waist.

As is fitting for Bottega Veneta, leather infused the collection for both men and women, here on shoulder patches, there on epaulets or collars.

One model was virtually swaddled in supple olive leather, her oversized bomber jacket with high collar paired with an asymmetrical matching leather skirt, with nubby leather flip-flops at her feet.

But the collection took a dramatic turn with the arrival of a series of over-the-top showstopping coats made from recycled fibreglass, a synthetic material introduced at Trotter's debut last September.

The costume-like poofs moved and shimmered under the lights of the former theatre where the runway show was held, just steps from the La Scala opera, many of them paired with matching hats, in colours of electric blue, black and bubble-gum pink.

A sweater worn by a male model recalled a Harlequin theme with splotches of red and black against the white background of the shimmering, fur-like material.

"I wanted to express that joy, that theatric," said Trotter, saying the looks expressed the more showy side of Milan's residents, who "really dress up."

"I think it's quite unusual or rare today to find that. And I think it's dressing up for oneself and also for one's community. I think it's a sign

of pride and respect." Trotter's goal as a designer, she said, was to "bring joy and confidence to people" through clothing.

Backstage, rapper Lauryn Hill had on one of Trotter's glittering sweaters of fibreglass, in electric orange, accessorised with an oversized "intreccio" purse with fringe.

An entourage of assistants directed hand fans in Hill's direction to keep her cool, sending the fibres of the outrageous garment a flutter.

"It's got a life of its own," said one of them, with a smile.

Colour of clouds

After the showmanship at Bottega Veneta, a change of mood pervaded the air at Giorgio Armani, where women's creative director Silvana Armani -- niece of founder Giorgio who died last year -- presented a subtle, atmospheric pre-reporter collection in tones of grey. □

Accompanied by the sound of blowing wind on the music soundtrack,

India opens first semiconductor assembly facility

(AFP) - New Delhi, India

India inaugurated its first semiconductor assembly and test facility on Saturday, a milestone in the government's push to reduce dependence on foreign chipmakers and stake a claim in a sector dominated by China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi opened US firm Micron Technology's Semiconductor Assembly, Test and Packaging unit in his home state of Gujarat, hailing the "dawn of a new era" for India's technology ambitions.

"When young Indians look back in the future, they will see this decade as the turning point in our tech future," Modi told the event, which was broadcast on his official YouTube channel.

The plant will convert advanced semiconductor wafers from Micron's global network into finished memory and storage



products.

India's semiconductor market has expanded from \$38 billion in 2023 to an estimated \$45-50 billion in 2024-25, with government

targets of up to \$110 billion by 2030.

New Delhi is currently developing 10 chip projects worth more than \$18 billion, including two

cutting-edge 3-nanometre design facilities in the cities of Noida and Bengaluru.

Modi said at least three other semiconductor projects would begin

production soon.

"India, which is known for software, is now also building its identity in hardware," he said.

The prime minister linked the launch to deepening technological cooperation with Washington, noting India's entry into the US-led Pax Silica alliance focused on artificial intelligence, critical minerals and supply-chain security -- areas where China holds considerable sway.

"The entire world wants to secure these supply chains which are key for humanity's future," Modi said.

The US ambassador to India, Sergio Gora, said the opening marked "India's entry into the global semiconductor supply chain as a manufacturing nation".

"This is just the beginning," Gora said.

UK pop-soul star Olivia Dean sweeps Brit Awards

(AFP) - Manchester, United Kingdom

British singer-songwriter Olivia Dean triumphed Saturday at the Brit Awards, claiming four prizes at the UK's biggest annual music celebration held for the first time in Manchester, north-west England.

After topping the charts at home and abroad with her monster hit "Man I Need" and lauded album "The Art of Loving", the 26-year-old dominated the star-studded awards ceremony at the city's Co-op Live arena. Weeks after winning the best new artist Grammy, she bagged the evening's most coveted Album Of The Year gong, beating out indie singer Sam Fender, rockers Wolf Alice, pop star Lily Allen and rapper Dave. Dean also won best artist, best pop act and -- alongside Fender -- song of the year for their single "Rein Me In", topping the likes of British stars Raye, Lola Young and Calvin Harris.



British singer Olivia Dean speaks on stage after receiving the award for best Pop act during the BRIT Awards 2026 at the Co-op Live arena, in Manchester on February 28, 2026.

"Thank you so much for believing in me when I didn't really believe in myself sometimes," an emotional Dean said as she accepted the best album accolade. "This album is just about love and loving each other

in a world that feels loveless right now."

Rising star Young did not leave empty-handed, picking up best breakthrough artist while Wolf Alice snagged group of the year. "It is a great time in British

music and music in general, and I'm just so proud to be a part of it," 25-year-old "Messy" singer Young said in her acceptance speech. Pep appearance Spanish singer Rosalia, who won best international art-

ist, delivered an electric performance featuring Bjork. The Icelandic singer-songwriter emerged from a choreographed dance ensemble to showcase their hit song "Bergain".

K-pop idol Rose -- a member of Blackpink -- and Bruno Mars won the international song of the year for their viral hit "APT" while Brooklyn rockers Geese bagged best international group.

Collecting the prize, band drummer Max Bassin was bleeped out from the British television broadcast of the event after telling the audience "free Palestine" and "f*ck Le".

The Brit Awards have recognised the cream of British and global pop music since they were first held in 1977, but have often been peppered with scandal and farce.

Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker famously stormed the stage in protest while Michael Jackson.

Brave new world: how countries are regulating AI

(AFP) - Tokyo, Japan

Since ChatGPT stunned the world three years ago with the powers of generative AI, countries have grappled with how to govern the rapidly developing technology.

As Vietnam's artificial intelligence law goes into effect on Sunday, AFP takes a look at regulation efforts around the globe:

EU: first mover

The European Union is considered a trailblazer, having adopted in 2024 what it calls "the world's first comprehensive AI law" penalised with heavy fines. The law takes a risk-based approach: if a system is high-risk, a company will have a stricter set of obligations to fulfil before being authorised in the EU. These landmark rules have faced pushback from Washington under President Donald Trump, but also from businesses and governments at home that complain they could hamper growth.

The EU bowed to pressure last year and proposed



changes including partially delaying the law's application in a move it says will help European companies compete globally.

The law will now be fully applicable in 2027, but the EU already allows regulators to ban systems deemed to pose unacceptable risks. That could include "social scoring" systems that lead to discrimination by classifying individuals or groups based on social behaviour or personal traits.

US: land of the free?

The United States, home to ChatGPT maker OpenAI,

chip titan Nvidia and tech giants like Google, is not keen on enacting new rules.

Vice President JD Vance has wamed against "excessive regulation" that "could kill a transformative sector".

And at a major AI summit in New Delhi in February, the US delegation head said the country "to tally" rejects global governance of AI. Some states have taken matters into their own hands, although the White House is trying to find ways to stop this from happening. California enacted a first-

of-its-kind law in October requiring AI chatbot operators to implement safeguards such as referring people who express thoughts on suicide to crisis services.

Asia: new laws

A wide-ranging law took full effect in South Korea in January, requiring companies to tell users when products use generative AI.

It also says they must clearly label content, including deepfakes, that cannot readily be differentiated from reality.

Places like Taiwan and Japan are taking a lighter touch on AI regulation, shying away from penalties in favour of voluntary guidelines promoting innovation.

China -- racing to challenge US dominance in the technology -- has its own complex and evolving set of guardrails.

"What stands out about China is how regulated it is, despite the innovation happening," Seth Hays, author of the Asia AI Policy

Monitor newsletter, told AFP.

"For example, firms need to register their models with the government, and there are stricter content moderation, labelling and user verification requirements not seen elsewhere."

Global debate

Many other countries, from Brazil to the United Arab Emirates, are implementing AI frameworks that can roughly be divided into risk-based rules like the EU's, or pro-innovation guidelines. At the New Delhi summit, 91 countries and organisations called for "secure, trustworthy and robust" AI. But their declaration, signed by the United States and China, was criticised by AI safety campaigners for being too generic to protect the public.

A 40-member United Nations expert panel has also been established to work towards "science-led governance" of the technology, the global body's chief Antonio Gutierrez has said.

New 'Wuthering Heights' film unleashes fresh wave of Bronte-mania

(AFP) - **Haworth, United Kingdom**

Perched on the edge of the rugged Yorkshire moors that inspired Emily Bronte to write her masterpiece "Wuthering Heights", the quaint village of Haworth has long been a place of literary pilgrimage.

Now the latest big-screen adaptation of her classic 1847 novel -- starring Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi and with a Charli XCX soundtrack -- is drawing a fresh influx of visitors.

It was here that Emily and her sisters, Charlotte and Anne, lived and wrote.

More than 150 years after the sisters' deaths, "the world is still fascinated with their stories," said Canadian retiree Nancy Marto, adding that being able to visit Haworth was "a dream come true".

"I think the fact that there is a new version of 'Wuthering Heights'... speaks to the power of these authors, to Emily, but also to her sisters," she said.

Two weeks after the release of the film, picturesque



A display in St Michael and All Angels' Church features items linked to the Bronte family, who lived at the adjacent Parsonage, is pictured in the village centre of Haworth, northern England on February 25, 2026.

Haworth in northwest England with its narrow, cobbled streets and small stone houses, is packed.

The film, loosely based on the book, was one of the most anticipated of the year.

At the heart of the plot is the passionate relationship between Heathcliff,

a boy of mysterious origins taken in by the wealthy Mr Earnshaw and his daughter Catherine.

The moors, battered by the elements, play a central role in the novel, as well as in Emerald Fennell's film.

'Completely besotted' Johnnie Brigg, a local tour guide, has been inundat-

ed with requests in recent weeks.

"They want to come here and experience the Brontes, the moor, and find their own interpretation of Emily," he said.

The film would attract a "whole new generation of people" who had not yet read the book but were

"completely besotted" after seeing the film, he added.

The parsonage between the village and the moors where the Brontes lived with their clergyman father and brother, Branwell, is now a museum dedicated to their memory.

Emily's sister Charlotte also wrote "Jane Eyre" here, another classic of English literature.

The museum's Mia Ferullo, who has been giving talks on "Bronte-mania" for the past fortnight, said "so many people" were "picking up the book for the first time" as a result of the film. Museum director Rebecca Yorke said 500 people of all ages and backgrounds visited on one Saturday.

Numbers like that were usually only seen in peak season such as during the August summer holidays, Yorke said. "Everyone is talking about Emily Bronte and 'Wuthering Heights'.... It's just extraordinary," she added. □

Climate change forces face lift for Michelangelo masterpiece

(AFP) - **Vatican City, Holy See**

Michelangelo's famous The Last Judgment fresco in the Sistine Chapel is getting its biggest facelift in more than three decades to remove a light whitish residue left by sweaty visitors.

The restoration of the 16th century masterpiece in the Vatican is aimed at bringing back to light the vibrant colours of the work, which measures nearly 14 metres (46 feet) high.

Visitors will still be able to access the Sistine Chapel during the restoration but the fresco is obscured by a large scaffolding covered with a reproduction of the work.

Vatican Museums director Barbara Jatta described the white layer being removed as "a bit like a cataract", during a press tour on Saturday of the project, due to be completed before Easter.

Jatta said the layer cov-



Climate change forces face lift for Michelangelo masterpiece

ered "the entire 180 square-metre surface" of the work. The Vatican Museums said in a statement that the substance was "invisible to the naked eye" but had "dimmed" the original colours of the piece.

The fresco is being dabbed with distilled water through a layer of Japanese paper to remove the substance, identified as calcium lac-

tate.

"Perspiration has increased in recent years because of climate change. Due to perspiration we produce lactic acid... which becomes calcium lactate," Fabio Moresi, head of scientific research at the Vatican Museums, told reporters.

Vatican Museums staff said measures had already

been taken to reduce the number of visitors present at any one time in the Sistine Chapel, which is also the place where cardinals meet in closed-door conclaves to elect new popes. Part of overhaul

Moresi described the difference in the fresco before and after the treatment as like "two different worlds" and said working on the masterpiece was an "emotional" process.

The Last Judgment, which was painted between 1536 and 1541, is the centrepiece of the Sistine Chapel, and is located just behind the altar.

Then-pope Paul III was said to have been so impressed by the work that he fell on his knees and ask for divine forgiveness when he first saw it.

Of the fresco's 391 figures, many are nude or seminude, which caused scandal at the time.

Many were covered up

with cloths painted over the original following Michelangelo's death.

Some of the painted cloths were removed in 1994 during the last major restoration.

The current project is being sponsored by US donors and is part of a major overhaul of the Sistine Chapel that began in 2010.

Work is normally carried out when the Sistine Chapel is closed to visitors and without the need for scaffolding but Vatican Museums officials said this was not possible for The Last Judgment because of the scale of the work.

Moresi said the restoration felt personal for him because he was hired in 1988 when the last major facelift of the Sistine Chapel was just starting and he is now nearly at retirement age.

"It's marvellous... There's a piece of me in here," he said. □

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.



Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles.

The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea

glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side

of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasure!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation.



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Oceanfront Condos in the Caribbean: How Aruba Compares to Regional Luxury Markets

Oceanfront condominiums remain one of the most sought-after real estate assets in the Caribbean. Limited beachfront land, strong tourism demand, and international buyers seeking lifestyle and investment properties continue to drive prices upward across the region.

But how does Aruba compare with other premier island destinations such as the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, Barbados, The Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic?

This article explores how Aruba's oceanfront condo market stacks up in terms of pricing, positioning, and investment appeal.

Aruba: Premium Yet Relatively Competitive

Aruba's oceanfront condominiums typically trade in the mid-to-upper tier of Caribbean pricing. Prime beachfront units commonly range from approximately \$600 to \$800 per square foot, with luxury residences exceeding \$1 million depending on size, amenities, and location.

Several factors support Aru-

ba's pricing:

- Strict development controls limiting new beachfront inventory
 - Consistently strong tourism performance
 - A stable political and legal system
 - Strong North American buyer presence
- Compared to many Caribbean islands, Aruba offers a balance: luxury positioning without the ultra-premium pricing seen in the region's most exclusive markets.

Cayman Islands: Ultra-Luxury Benchmark

The Cayman Islands represent one of the most expensive oceanfront condo markets in the Caribbean. Prices frequently exceed \$1,100 per square foot and can rise well beyond \$2,000 per square foot for prime Seven Mile Beach properties.

Drivers of Cayman's premium pricing include:

- No direct income or capital gains taxes
- A strong financial services sector
- High-net-worth international buyers
- Limited beachfront supply

Relative to Cayman, Aruba appears significantly more affordable — often by 30–60% for comparable beachfront product.

Turks and Caicos: High-End Resort Market

Turks and Caicos has evolved into a luxury resort-driven real estate market, with oceanfront condos commonly priced between \$1,100 and \$1,500 per square foot in prime areas like Grace Bay.

Like Cayman, this market caters heavily to affluent international buyers seeking resort-branded properties. While offering exceptional beaches and exclusivity, entry prices are generally higher than Aruba's.

Barbados: Established Prestige Market

Barbados, particularly along its West Coast, commands strong prices for beachfront condominiums, often ranging from \$750 to \$1,400 per square foot.

The island benefits from:

- Long-standing reputation among UK and Canadian buyers
- Established luxury villa



and condo communities

- Strong tourism infrastructure

Aruba's pricing is often slightly below Barbados at the high end, making it competitive within the premium Caribbean category.

The Bahamas: Wide Pricing Spectrum

The Bahamas offers a broad range of oceanfront pricing. In Nassau and Paradise Island, luxury condos can range from \$700 to over \$2,000 per square foot, depending on development quality and exclusivity.

While certain ultra-luxury projects rival Cayman pricing, mid-range inventory overlaps more closely with Aruba's levels.

Dominican Republic: Value-Oriented Alternative

The Dominican Republic presents one of the Caribbean's more affordable beachfront condo markets. In areas such as Punta Cana, oceanfront or near-ocean units may range between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for mid-sized condos, often translating to substantially lower per-square-foot pricing than Aruba.

The key differences include:

- Greater land availability
- Larger development pipeline
- More price diversity across market segments

For buyers prioritizing affordability, the Dominican Republic often offers a lower entry point than Aruba.

What Explains the Price Differences?

Several structural factors influence these variations:

1. Land Scarcity
Smaller islands with strict coastal development rules (like Aruba and Cayman) naturally command higher prices.
2. Tax Environment

Tax-neutral jurisdictions such as Cayman often attract ultra-high-net-worth buyers.

3. Tourism Strength

Islands with high, stable tourism and strong airift support greater rental yields and higher valuations.

4. Global Branding

Destinations positioned as luxury enclaves tend to command price premiums.

Aruba's Position in the Caribbean Market

Aruba occupies a strategic middle ground:

- More affordable than ultra-premium markets such as Cayman and Turks & Caicos
- Comparable or slightly below established luxury markets like Barbados
- More expensive than value-driven markets such as the Dominican Republic

This positioning makes Aruba particularly attractive for buyers seeking:

- Stable long-term appreciation
- Solid rental demand
- Strong lifestyle appeal
- A lower price entry compared to the region's most elite markets

Conclusion

Oceanfront condos across the Caribbean vary widely in price, reflecting differences in supply constraints, tax structures, tourism demand, and brand perception.

Aruba stands out as a premium yet relatively accessible oceanfront market. It offers many of the features buyers seek in higher-priced jurisdictions — stability, strong tourism, limited beachfront inventory — without reaching the extreme pricing levels seen in Cayman or Turks & Caicos.

For investors and lifestyle buyers alike, Aruba represents a compelling balance between exclusivity and value within the Caribbean's competitive beachfront real estate landscape.

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Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolish”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That’s right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure



of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it

also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zout-

man had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Mu-

seum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee’s sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our lo-



cal marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brake, lion-

fish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a “cleaning station”—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef’s health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam

free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is a challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brake who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life.

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Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe Vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe Vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced



the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxa-

tive, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned

about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe



fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island.

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals. One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled

with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over

the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are

fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors

carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach, Along the main road next to the airport field, At the California Light House or At the Alto Vista Chapel.

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba

(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail.

Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast.

His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safeguard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouadi and later Westpunt, where gold ore was found.



Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun.

Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

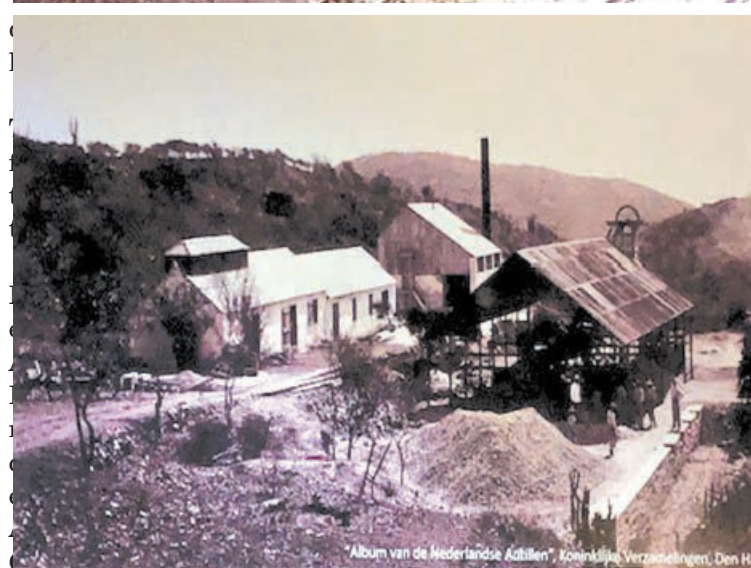
In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers.

The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the gold mines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were



ba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment.

In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process.

By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso Newspaper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again,

ing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are preserved as historical monuments.

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meerover the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

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CROSSWORD

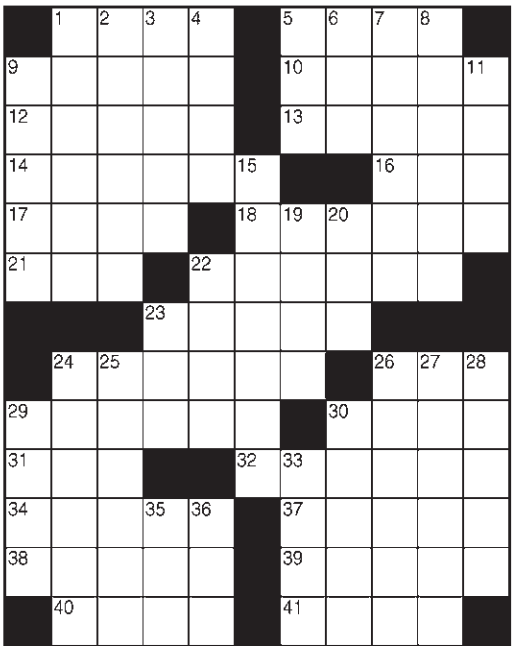
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Party spread
5 Los Angeles football team
9 Minty drink
10 Clapton and Idle
12 "A miss is as good as —"
13 Steak cut
14 Friend of Pooh
16 Genetic stuff
17 Needing a massage
18 Billfold
21 Tennis need
22 Rots
23 Parking pro
24 Wolfs (down)
26 Sack
29 Spectrum color
30 Long story
31 In the past
32 Ophelia's love
34 Bay
37 Creator of Pooh
38 Stable sound
39 Novel ideas
40 Venetian magistrate

DOWN

- 1 Volcanic rock
2 Step down
3 Tube, to Brits
4 Fencing sword
5 Game official
6 Onassis nickname
7 Somewhat bold
8 Play parts
9 Osaka setting
11 ERA or RBI
15 Shake-speare's "— Night"
19 High cards
20 Back muscle, for short
22 Be
23 Kilmer of "The Doors"
24 Endorsed
25 "Gang-sta's Paradise" rapper
26 Spot for an X
27 FBI employees
28 Airport areas
29 Conceited
30 Amused expression
33 Band boosters
35 Nest item
36 English article



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

LJLSRKIN NHS LTZ ELHS WGI

HTNAHILSHGT; SCR IRNS GW

KN YKNS VRS KA LTZ VG SG

EGIM. — NSRACRT MHTV

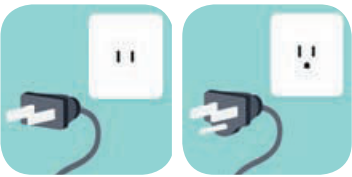
Cryptoquote: PAIN IS INEVITABLE.
SUFFERING IS OPTIONAL. — HARUKI MURAKAMI

Cruise ship Schedule: March 03-06 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR	10.30	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN SKY	13.30	22.30	I	1
WED	04	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00	****	B	1
		AMBASSADOR SHIP 3	09.00	18.00	C	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	I	1
THU	05	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS - Dept.	****	18.00	B	-
		MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	16.00	C	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	18.00	I	1
FRI	06	CARNIVAL GLORY	09.00	22.00	B	1
		NORWEGIAN STAR	11.00	20.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourists that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	3	2	7	8		9		
7	5	9	2	4		8		
	1		6	3		7		2
	2	8	1			6		
	7				8	2	4	5
5				7		1		
					6			1
2		5		1				9
		3		2	7			8

Difficulty: ★

3/2

Answer to previous puzzle

3	1	2	9	8	6	4	5	7
8	9	5	7	4	3	1	6	2
6	4	7	2	1	5	9	3	8
2	8	9	6	7	1	3	4	5
1	7	3	5	9	4	2	8	6
4	5	6	8	3	2	7	9	1
7	6	8	3	2	9	5	1	4
5	3	1	4	6	7	8	2	9
9	2	4	1	5	8	6	7	3

Difficulty: ★★★★★

3/1

3D tool Unreal Engine makes real impact in creative industries

(AFP) - Paris, France

Massively popular video game "Fortnite", TV news graphics and acclaimed animated series and films have something in common: use of the powerful Unreal Engine that is quickly becoming the go-to tool for 3D projects beyond the video games industry.

Created for the 1998 game "Unreal" by Tim Sweeney -- who is now the head of "Fortnite" developer Epic Games -- the engine was soon made available for other companies.

It was a rare move in an industry where most studios develop their own engines, an expansive term for the software controlling the main characteristics of a game world such as sound, graphics and physics simulation.

In recent years, the ease of use and power of the latest version of Unreal Engine has seen it integrated into hit game titles such as China's "Black Myth: Wukong" or France's "Clair Obscur: Expedition 33".

"Tomb Raider" star Lara Croft will be crafted in Unreal Engine in her upcoming fresh adventures too, said Scot Amos, director of the Crystal Dynamics studio.

Using Unreal "gives us access to a broad swath" of developers, he said, calling it "an ubiquitous tool that so many people will use and get".

The off-the-shelf solution saves on time and costs as "we don't have to keep teaching people how to use a proprietary tech" developed in-house, Amos added.

More than one quarter (28 percent) of games released for PCs in 2024 were built using Unreal Engine, according to specialist data firm Sensor Tower. "It's become truly indispensable in the industry," said Brice Roy, director of France's Institute for Digital Creation and Animation into production pipelines"



Visitors stand at the booth of 'Lego Fortnite', an open world survival video game, developed and published by Epic Games in association with The Lego Group, during the media day at the Gamescom video games trade fair in Cologne, western Germany on August 21, 2024.

cross different industries. Around 600 people work full-time at Epic on the game engine, which boasts a monthly user count of more than one million.

That makes Unreal Engine a "significant" part of Epic's business, Miglio said.

Some of the software's success can be traced to its unique business model, under which Epic offers game developers the software for free and takes a five-percent cut only if their work tops \$1.0 million in revenue. In other sectors, access costs around \$1,800 per user for companies making more than a million in annual revenue.

'Standardisation'

Generous access policies have made Unreal Engine a boon to online content creators.

"We see it kind of as a free tool" that "meets the need to illustrate our videos," said Sylvain Szeuzyk, who uses Unreal to create interview backgrounds and illustrations for tech-focused stories broadcast to his 540,000 YouTube subscribers. But the tool's dominance as the first choice for creators could lead to excessive "standardisation" of 3D content, ICAN's Roy warned.

"Games developed with Unreal often have a graphical footprint that's easy to spot," he said.

Epic still has big plans for Unreal Engine, aiming to adapt it for mobile games and add to its capabilities. "Today we can make multiplayer games on maps of around eight square kilometres (three square miles) with 100 players," Epic's Miglio said. □



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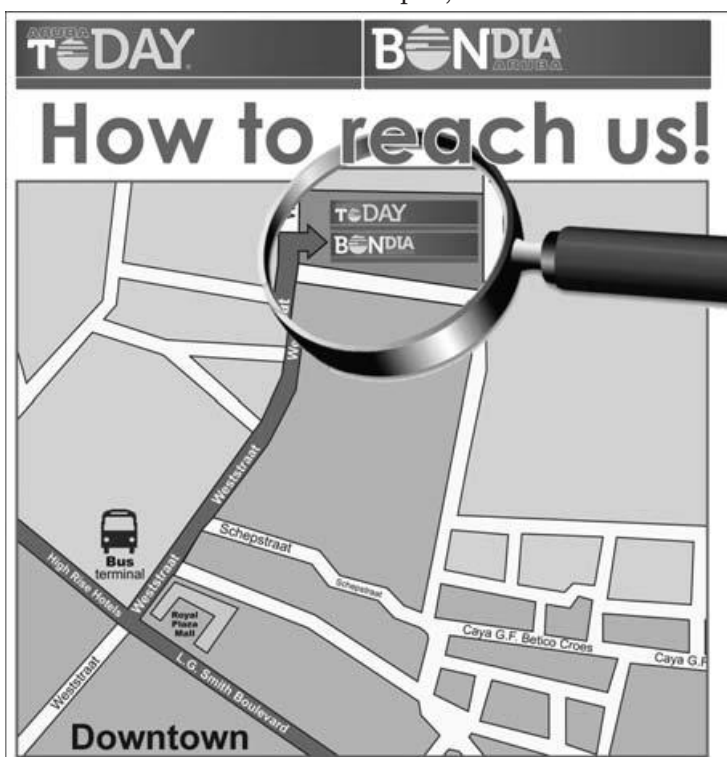
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Hearts the winners as Celtic fight back to salvage Rangers draw

(AFP)—Glasgow, United Kingdom

Celtic came from 2-0 down to salvage a 2-2 draw at fierce rivals Rangers on Sunday in a result that edged Hearts ever closer to breaking the Old Firm's dominance of Scottish football. A spectacular overhead kick from Youssef Chermiti fired Rangers into an early lead at a buoyant Ibrox and the Portuguese under-21 international doubled the home side's advantage before half-time. Celtic have made a habit of late comebacks during Martin O'Neill's two caretaker spells in charge this season and needed another one to salvage their title hopes.

Kieran Tierney's header halved the deficit before Reo Hatate grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser on the rebound after his penalty was saved by Jack Butland.

Yet the winners of a pulsating Glasgow derby were in Edinburgh as Hearts' lead at the top is reduced only to six points with nine games to play for the top



Celtic's Japanese midfielder #41 Reo Hatate (L) vies with Stuttgart's Bosnian forward #09 Edin Demirovic (R) during the UEFA Europa League knockout round playoff, 1st leg football match between Celtic and Stuttgart at Celtic Park in Glasgow on February 19, 2026.

two.

Celtic trail second-placed Rangers by two points, but can usurp them with a game in hand at Aberdeen on Wednesday.

In-form Mothwerwell are also not out of the running as they are 10 points off the top with a game in hand on Hearts and face the Jam-

bost twice more this season. Legendary former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson was in attendance at Ibrox after taking in Hearts' 1-0 win over Aberdeen at Tynecastle on Saturday.

Ferguson was in charge of Aberdeen the last time a side other than Celtic or

Rangers won the Scottish top flight back in 1984/85. The flaws on both sides of the Glasgow divide that has allowed Hearts to profit were on show.

Chermiti's remarkable big game record continued as eight of his nine goals for Rangers have come against Celtic or Hearts.

And there has rarely been a better one in the history of this fixture than his acrobatic effort to open the scoring from Andreas Skov Olsen's cross.

Chermiti showed quick feet to add a second and Rangers could have had more in a dominant first 45 minutes.

O'Neill responded by making two half-time changes with former Arsenal and Liverpool midfielder Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain among those replaced.

Celtic were transformed in the second half and grew in belief once Tierney nodded in Benjamin Nygren's cross.

But they needed a VAR review to spot a clear handball by Dujon Sterling for the irrequaliser.

Butland continued his incredible record of saving penalties this season, but got unfortunate as even after blocking Hatate's follow-up effort, the ball broke for the Japan international to tap in. □

Bezzecchi wins MotoGP opener as wheel woe forces Marquez out

(AFP) - Buriram, Thailand

Marc Bezzecchi won the MotoGP season-opening grand prix in Thailand from pole position on Sunday as defending world champion Marc Marquez retired late with a buckled wheel. Aprilia's Bezzecchi led from start to finish to top the podium in Buriram, with KIM's Pedro Acosta second and Trackhouse's Raul Fernandez third.

Ducati's Marquez is chasing a record-equalling eighth world title this season but he exited the race in dramatic fashion while in fourth place with five laps to go.

The Spaniard, who started from second on the grid, took a corner wide and the jolt to his bike dislodged the rear tyre and badly damaged his wheel.

Bezzecchi returned to winning form after crashing out of Saturday's sprint race on the second lap.



Winner Aprilia Racing's Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi celebrates on the podium after the MotoGP Thailand Grand Prix at the Buriram International Circuit in Buriram on March 1, 2026.

"Yesterday was a small mistake with a big consequence so it was important today to try to bounce back," said the Italian.

"My pace was good with the medium, we worked it super-well all weekend, so I knew that I could be fast if I was in front.

"I tried my all to make a good start and the bike

was perfect," he added.

Bezzecchi was fastest in all three practice sessions in Thailand and set a new track record in qualifying. It was also his third straight grand prix win stretching back to last season.

"It's just the first race so we must stay calm, we must stay focused, keep our head down and try to work

always in the best way possible," said Bezzecchi.

"Because we know that we will struggle at some point." Marquez misery

Marquez dominated last year's championship but he said earlier this week that he was still feeling the lingering effects of a shoulder injury that forced him to miss the final four races of the season.

The 33-year-old was picked off by a succession of riders as the race got underway but recovered to put himself back into podium contention.

He was priming himself for an attack on Acosta and Fernandez when he ran wide and did well not to be thrown from his bike, even though it did spell the end of his race.

The 33-year-old got off his bike and slapped his hands together in frustration before trudging off the track. His departure left Acosta to

reel in Fernandez to secure second place and wrap up a successful weekend for the 21-year-old Spaniard.

Acosta won the sprint after Marquez was forced to let him pass on the final lap because of a penalty.

"We have to be happy that things are working super-good," said Acosta, who leads the championship standings ahead of Bezzecchi after the first round. "Thanks to everyone who supported me, because last year the start was not the dreaming one."

Fernandez looked like he had second place locked up until a late problem with his bike allowed Acosta to go past him.

"It was quite difficult, especially the last five, six laps," said Fernandez.

"I tried to make my maximum but I had destroyed the rear tyre." □

Inter continue Scudetto march after Champions League humbling

(AFP) - Milan, Italy

Inter Milan bounced back from Champions League elimination with Saturday's 2-0 win over Genoa which continued their march towards the Serie A title.

Federico Dimarco's brilliant volley just after the half-hour mark and Hakan Calhanoglu's second-half penalty were enough for Inter to extend their already huge lead over AC Milan at the top of the table to 13 points.

Milan will be favourites to win at Cremonese in Sunday's early fixture, with the local rivals set to face off next weekend in a match which will in all likelihood have little impact on the destination of the Scudetto.

"We got the job done... in the end what matters is the team," said Dimarco who has scored seven goals and set up 15 more in all competitions this season.

"If my goals and assists don't give us trophies they won't be worth very much. I'd rather have fewer goals and assists if it means us winning the league."

Inter, whose fans unloaded a collection of anti-Milan chants in anticipation of the derby, have dropped just two points in 15 league matches and have been a cut above the rest in Italy's top flight this season.

Their domestic dominance comes in stark contrast to the humiliating manner in which they were dumped out of the Champions League by Bodo/Glimt on Tuesday night.

A 5-2 aggregate defeat to the Norwegian minnows cast doubts over not just the quality of Cristian Chivu's team but of Italian football as a whole.

There was plenty of quality in Dimarco's opener however, the Italy full-back beautifully placing a first-time finish from a tight an-



Inter Milan's Turkish midfielder #20 Hakan Calhanoglu celebrates with teammates after scoring his team's second goal in a penalty kick during the Italian Serie A football match between Inter Milan and Genoa at the San Siro Stadium in Milan on February 28, 2026.

gle after exchanging passes with Henrikh Mkhitaryan. humdrum encounter until Alex Amorim handled a cross from Luis Henrique,

Little else happened in a whose shot had been Calhanoglu calmly stroked

home the spot-kick on his return to action following niggling muscle problems which have caused him issues since before Christmas, sealing the points for Inter.

- Big Rom back -

Romelu Lukaku kept Napoli on course for a Champions League spot with a last-gasp winner in the champions' 2-1 victory over rock-bottom Verona, the Belgium forward's first goal of the season.

Lukaku forced home Giovane's cross to snatch the win for third-placed Napoli with the last kick of the game at the Stadio Marcantonio Bentegodi. □



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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation

(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it



all for you, any time of the day.

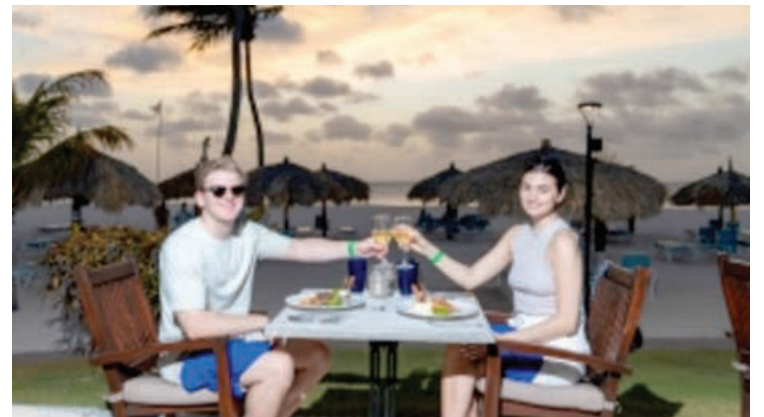
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with

their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy the succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or



Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green pepper cream demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua

and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com

